

NAME

tar - an archiving utility

SYNOPSIS**Traditional usage**

tar {A|c|d|r|t|u|x}[GnSkUWOmpsMBiajJzZhPIRvwo] [ARG...]

UNIX-style usage

tar -A [*OPTIONS*] **-f** *ARCHIVE* *ARCHIVE*...

tar -c [**-f** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar -d [**-f** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar -r [**-f** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar -t [**-f** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*MEMBER*...]

tar -u [**-f** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar -x [**-f** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*MEMBER*...]

GNU-style usage

tar {--catenate|--concatenate} [*OPTIONS*] **--file** *ARCHIVE* *ARCHIVE*...

tar --create [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar {--diff|--compare} [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar --delete [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*MEMBER*...]

tar --append [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar --list [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*MEMBER*...]

tar --test-label [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*LABEL*...]

tar --update [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*FILE*...]

tar {--extract|--get} [**--file** *ARCHIVE*] [*OPTIONS*] [*MEMBER*...]

NOTE

This manpage is a short description of GNU **tar**. For a detailed discussion, including examples and usage recommendations, refer to the **GNU Tar Manual** available in texinfo format. If the **info** reader and the tar documentation are properly installed on your system, the command

info tar

should give you access to the complete manual.

You can also view the manual using the info mode in **emacs**(1), or find it in various formats online at

<https://www.gnu.org/software/tar/manual>

If any discrepancies occur between this manpage and the **GNU Tar Manual**, the later shall be considered the authoritative source.

DESCRIPTION

GNU **tar** is an archiving program designed to store multiple files in a single file (an **archive**), and to manipulate such archives. The archive can be either a regular file or a device (e.g. a tape drive, hence the name of the program, which stands for **tape archiver**), which can be located either on the local or on a remote machine.

Option styles

Options to GNU **tar** can be given in three different styles. In **traditional style**, the first argument is a cluster of option letters and all subsequent arguments supply arguments to those options that require them. The arguments are read in the same order as the option letters. Any command line words that remain after all options have been processed are treated as non-option arguments: file or archive member names.

For example, the **c** option requires creating the archive, the **v** option requests the verbose operation, and the **f** option takes an argument that sets the name of the archive to operate upon. The following command, written in the traditional style, instructs tar to store all files from the directory **/etc** into the archive file **etc.tar**, verbosely listing the files being archived:

```
tar cfv etc.tar /etc
```

In **UNIX** or **short-option style**, each option letter is prefixed with a single dash, as in other command line utilities. If an option takes an argument, the argument follows it, either as a separate command line word, or immediately following the option. However, if the option takes an **optional** argument, the argument must follow the option letter without any intervening whitespace, as in **-g/tmp/snar.db**.

Any number of options not taking arguments can be clustered together after a single dash, e.g. **-v~~kp~~**. An option that takes an argument (whether mandatory or optional) can appear at the end of such a cluster, e.g. **-v~~kp~~ a.tar**.

The example command above written in the **short-option style** could look like:

```
tar -cvf etc.tar /etc
or
tar -c -v -f etc.tar /etc
```

In **GNU** or **long-option style**, each option begins with two dashes and has a meaningful name, consisting of lower-case letters and dashes. When used, the long option can be abbreviated to its initial letters, provided that this does not create ambiguity. Arguments to long options are supplied either as a separate command line word, immediately following the option, or separated from the option by an equals sign with no intervening whitespace. Optional arguments must always use the latter method.

Here are several ways of writing the example command in this style:

```
tar --create --file etc.tar --verbose /etc
or (abbreviating some options):
tar --cre --file=etc.tar --verb /etc
```

The options in all three styles can be intermixed, although doing so with old options is not encouraged.

Operation mode

The options listed in the table below tell GNU **tar** what operation it is to perform. Exactly one of them must be given. The meaning of non-option arguments depends on the operation mode requested.

-A, --catenate, --concatenate

Append archives to the end of another archive. The arguments are treated as the names of archives to append. All archives must be of the same format as the archive they are appended to, otherwise the resulting archive might be unusable with non-GNU implementations of **tar**. Notice also that when more than one archive is given, the members from archives other than the first one will be accessible in the resulting archive only when using the **-i** (**--ignore-zeros**) option.

Compressed archives cannot be concatenated.

-c, --create

Create a new archive. Arguments supply the names of the files to be archived. Directories are archived recursively, unless the **--no-recursion** option is given.

-d, --diff, --compare

Find differences between archive and file system. The arguments are optional and specify archive members to compare. If not given, the current working directory is assumed.

--delete

Delete from the archive. The arguments supply names of the archive members to be removed. At least one argument must be given.

This option does not operate on compressed archives. There is no short option equivalent.

-r, --append

Append files to the end of an archive. Arguments have the same meaning as for **-c** (**--create**).

-t, --list

List the contents of an archive. Arguments are optional. When given, they specify the names of the members to list.

--test-label

Test the archive volume label and exit. When used without arguments, it prints the volume label (if any) and exits with status **0**. When one or more command line arguments are given, **tar** compares the volume label with each argument. It exits with code **0** if a match is found, and with code **1** otherwise. No output is displayed, unless used together with the **-v** (**--verbose**) option.

There is no short option equivalent for this option.

-u, --update

Append files which are newer than the corresponding copy in the archive. Arguments have the same meaning as with the **-c** and **-r** options. Notice, that newer files don't replace their old archive copies, but instead are appended to the end of archive. The resulting archive can thus contain several members of the same name, corresponding to various versions of the same file.

-x, --extract, --get

Extract files from an archive. Arguments are optional. When given, they specify names of the archive members to be extracted.

--show-defaults

Show built-in defaults for various **tar** options and exit.

-, --help

Display a short option summary and exit.

--usage

Display a list of available options and exit.

--version

Print program version and copyright information and exit.

OPTIONS**Operation modifiers****--check-device**

Check device numbers when creating incremental archives (default).

-g, --listed-incremental=FILE

Handle new GNU-format incremental backups. *FILE* is the name of a **snapshot file**, where **tar** stores additional information which is used to decide which files changed since the previous incremental dump and, consequently, must be dumped again. If *FILE* does not exist when creating an archive, it will be created and all files will be added to the resulting archive (the **level 0** dump). To create incremental archives of non-zero level **N**, you need a copy of the snapshot file created for level **N-1**, and use it as *FILE*.

When listing or extracting, the actual content of *FILE* is not inspected, it is needed only due to syntactical requirements. It is therefore common practice to use **/dev/null** in its place.

--hole-detection=METHOD

Use *METHOD* to detect holes in sparse files. This option implies **--sparse**. Valid values for *METHOD* are **seek** and **raw**. Default is **seek** with fallback to **raw** when not applicable.

-G, --incremental

Handle old GNU-format incremental backups.

--ignore-failed-read

Do not exit with nonzero on unreadable files.

--level=NUMBER

Set dump level for a created listed-incremental archive. Currently only **--level=0** is meaningful: it instructs **tar** to truncate the snapshot file before dumping, thereby forcing a level 0 dump.

-n, --seek

Assume the archive is seekable. Normally **tar** determines automatically whether the archive can be seeked or not. This option is intended for use in cases when such recognition fails. It takes effect only if the archive is open for reading (e.g. with **--list** or **--extract** options).

--no-check-device

Do not check device numbers when creating incremental archives.

--no-seek

Assume the archive is not seekable.

--occurrence[=*N*]

Process only the *N*th occurrence of each file in the archive. This option is valid only when used with one of the following subcommands: **--delete**, **--diff**, **--extract** or **--list** and when a list of files is given either on the command line or via the **-T** option. The default *N* is **1**.

--restrict

Disable the use of some potentially harmful options.

--sparse-version=MAJOR[.MINOR]

Set which version of the sparse format to use. This option implies **--sparse**. Valid argument values are **0.0**, **0.1**, and **1.0**. For a detailed discussion of sparse formats, refer to the **GNU Tar Manual**, appendix **D**, "**Sparse Formats**". Using the **info** reader, it can be accessed running the following command: **info tar 'Sparse Formats'**.

-S, --sparse

Handle sparse files efficiently. Some files in the file system may have segments which were actually never written (quite often these are database files created by such systems as **DBM**).

When given this option, **tar** attempts to determine if the file is sparse prior to archiving it, and if so, to reduce the resulting archive size by not dumping empty parts of the file.

Overwrite control

These options control **tar** actions when extracting a file over an existing copy on disk.

-k, --keep-old-files

Don't replace existing files when extracting.

--keep-newer-files

Don't replace existing files that are newer than their archive copies.

--keep-directory-symlink

Don't replace existing symlinks to directories when extracting.

--no-overwrite-dir

Preserve metadata of existing directories.

--one-top-level[=*DIR*]

Extract all files into *DIR*, or, if used without argument, into a subdirectory named by the base name of the archive (minus standard compression suffixes recognizable by **--auto-compress**).

--overwrite

Overwrite existing files when extracting.

--overwrite-dir

Overwrite metadata of existing directories when extracting (default).

--recursive-unlink

Recursively remove all files in the directory prior to extracting it.

--remove-files

Remove files from disk after adding them to the archive.

--skip-old-files

Don't replace existing files when extracting, silently skip over them.

-U, --unlink-first

Remove each file prior to extracting over it.

-W, --verify

Verify the archive after writing it.

Output stream selection**--ignore-command-error**

Ignore subprocess exit codes.

--no-ignore-command-error

Treat non-zero exit codes of children as error (default).

-O, --to-stdout

Extract files to standard output.

--to-command=COMMAND

Pipe extracted files to *COMMAND*. The argument is the pathname of an external program, optionally with command line arguments. The program will be invoked and the contents of the file being extracted supplied to it on its standard input. Additional data will be supplied via the following environment variables:

TAR_FILETYPE

Type of the file. It is a single letter with the following meaning:

f	Regular file
d	Directory
l	Symbolic link
h	Hard link
b	Block device
c	Character device

Currently only regular files are supported.

TAR_MODE

File mode, an octal number.

TAR_FILENAME

The name of the file.

TAR_REALNAME

Name of the file as stored in the archive.

TAR_UNAME

Name of the file owner.

TAR_GNAME

Name of the file owner group.

TAR_ETIME

Time of last access. It is a decimal number, representing seconds since the Epoch. If the archive provides times with nanosecond precision, the nanoseconds are appended to the timestamp after a decimal point.

TAR_MTIME

Time of last modification.

TAR_CTIME

Time of last status change.

TAR_SIZE

Size of the file.

TAR_UID

UID of the file owner.

TAR_GID

GID of the file owner.

Additionally, the following variables contain information about **tar** operation mode and the archive being processed:

TAR_VERSION

GNU **tar** version number.

TAR_ARCHIVE

The name of the archive **tar** is processing.

TAR_BLOCKING_FACTOR

Current blocking factor, i.e. number of 512-byte blocks in a record.

TAR_VOLUME

Ordinal number of the volume **tar** is processing (set if reading a multi-volume archive).

TAR_FORMAT

Format of the archive being processed. One of: **gnu**, **oldgnu**, **posix**, **ustar**, **v7**.

TAR_SUBCOMMAND

A short option (with a leading dash) describing the operation **tar** is executing.

Handling of file attributes**--atime-preserve[=*METHOD*]**

Preserve access times on dumped files, either by restoring the times after reading (*METHOD*=**replace**, this is the default) or by not setting the times in the first place (*METHOD*=**system**).

--delay-directory-restore

Delay setting modification times and permissions of extracted directories until the end of extraction. Use this option when extracting from an archive which has unusual member ordering.

--group=*NAME*[:*GID*]

Force *NAME* as group for added files. If *GID* is not supplied, *NAME* can be either a user name or numeric GID. In this case the missing part (GID or name) will be inferred from the current host's

group database.

When used with **--group-map=FILE**, affects only those files whose owner group is not listed in *FILE*.

--group-map=FILE

Read group translation map from *FILE*. Empty lines are ignored. Comments are introduced with # sign and extend to the end of line. Each non-empty line in *FILE* defines translation for a single group. It must consist of two fields, delimited by any amount of whitespace:

OLDGRP NEWGRP[:NEWGID]

OLDGRP is either a valid group name or a GID prefixed with +. Unless *NEWGID* is supplied, *NEWGRP* must also be either a valid group name or a +*GID*. Otherwise, both *NEWGRP* and *NEWGID* need not be listed in the system group database.

As a result, each input file with owner group *OLDGRP* will be stored in archive with owner group *NEWGRP* and GID *NEWGID*.

--mode=CHANGES

Force symbolic mode *CHANGES* for added files.

--mtime=DATE-OR-FILE

Set mtime for added files. *DATE-OR-FILE* is either a date/time in almost arbitrary format, or the name of an existing file. In the latter case the mtime of that file will be used.

-m, --touch

Don't extract file modified time.

--no-delay-directory-restore

Cancel the effect of the prior **--delay-directory-restore** option.

--no-same-owner

Extract files as yourself (default for ordinary users).

--no-same-permissions

Apply the user's umask when extracting permissions from the archive (default for ordinary users).

--numeric-owner

Always use numbers for user/group names.

--owner=NAME[:UID]

Force *NAME* as owner for added files. If *UID* is not supplied, *NAME* can be either a user name or numeric UID. In this case the missing part (UID or name) will be inferred from the current host's user database.

When used with **--owner-map=FILE**, affects only those files whose owner is not listed in *FILE*.

--owner-map=FILE

Read owner translation map from *FILE*. Empty lines are ignored. Comments are introduced with # sign and extend to the end of line. Each non-empty line in *FILE* defines translation for a single UID. It must consist of two fields, delimited by any amount of whitespace:

OLDUSR NEWUSR[:NEWUID]

OLDUSR is either a valid user name or a UID prefixed with +. Unless *NEWUID* is supplied, *NEWUSR* must also be either a valid user name or a +*UID*. Otherwise, both *NEWUSR* and *NEWUID* need not be listed in the system user database.

As a result, each input file owned by *OLDUSR* will be stored in archive with owner name *NEWUSR* and UID *NEWUID*.

-p, --preserve-permissions, --same-permissions

Set permissions of extracted files to those recorded in the archive (default for superuser).

--same-owner

Try extracting files with the same ownership as exists in the archive (default for superuser).

-s, --preserve-order, --same-order

Tell **tar** that the list of file names to process is sorted in the same order as the files in the archive.

--sort=ORDER

When creating an archive, sort directory entries according to *ORDER*, which is one of **none**, **name**, or **inode**.

The default is **--sort=none**, which stores archive members in the same order as returned by the operating system.

Using **--sort=name** ensures the member ordering in the created archive is uniform and reproducible.

Using **--sort=inode** reduces the number of disk seeks made when creating the archive and thus can considerably speed up archivation. This sorting order is supported only if the underlying system provides the necessary information.

Extended file attributes

--acls

Enable POSIX ACLs support.

--no-acls

Disable POSIX ACLs support.

--selinux

Enable SELinux context support.

--no-selinux

Disable SELinux context support.

--xattrs

Enable extended attributes support.

--no-xattrs

Disable extended attributes support.

--xattrs-exclude=PATTERN

Specify the exclude pattern for xattr keys. *PATTERN* is a globbing pattern, e.g.

--xattrs-exclude='user.*' to include only attributes from the user namespace.

--xattrs-include=PATTERN

Specify the include pattern for xattr keys. *PATTERN* is a globbing pattern.

Device selection and switching

-f, --file=ARCHIVE

Use archive file or device *ARCHIVE*. If this option is not given, **tar** will first examine the environment variable 'TAPE'. If it is set, its value will be used as the archive name. Otherwise, **tar** will assume the compiled-in default. The default value can be inspected either using the **--show-defaults** option, or at the end of the **tar --help** output.

An archive name that has a colon in it specifies a file or device on a remote machine. The part before the colon is taken as the machine name or IP address, and the part after it as the file or device pathname, e.g.:

`--file=remotehost:/dev/sr0`

An optional username can be prefixed to the hostname, placing a @ sign between them.

By default, the remote host is accessed via the **rsh**(1) command. Nowadays it is common to use **ssh**(1) instead. You can do so by giving the following command line option:

`--rsh-command=/usr/bin/ssh`

The remote machine should have the **rmt**(8) command installed. If its pathname does not match **tar**'s default, you can inform **tar** about the correct pathname using the **--rmt-command** option.

--force-local

Archive file is local even if it has a colon.

-F, --info-script=COMMAND, --new-volume-script=COMMAND

Run *COMMAND* at the end of each tape (implies **-M**). The command can include arguments. When started, it will inherit **tar**'s environment plus the following variables:

TAR_VERSION

GNU **tar** version number.

TAR_ARCHIVE

The name of the archive **tar** is processing.

TAR_BLOCKING_FACTOR

Current blocking factor, i.e. number of 512-byte blocks in a record.

TAR_VOLUME

Ordinal number of the volume **tar** is processing (set if reading a multi-volume archive).

TAR_FORMAT

Format of the archive being processed. One of: **gnu**, **oldgnu**, **posix**, **ustar**, **v7**.

TAR_SUBCOMMAND

A short option (with a leading dash) describing the operation **tar** is executing.

TAR_FD

File descriptor which can be used to communicate the new volume name to **tar**.

If the info script fails, **tar** exits; otherwise, it begins writing the next volume.

-L, --tape-length=*N*

Change tape after writing *N*x1024 bytes. If *N* is followed by a size suffix (see the subsection **Size suffixes** below), the suffix specifies the multiplicative factor to be used instead of 1024.

This option implies **-M**.

-M, --multi-volume

Create/list/extract multi-volume archive.

--rmt-command=*COMMAND*

Use *COMMAND* instead of **rmt** when accessing remote archives. See the description of the **-f** option, above.

--rsh-command=*COMMAND*

Use *COMMAND* instead of **rsh** when accessing remote archives. See the description of the **-f** option, above.

--volno-file=*FILE*

When this option is used in conjunction with **--multi-volume**, **tar** will keep track of which volume of a multi-volume archive it is working in *FILE*.

Device blocking

-b, --blocking-factor=*BLOCKS*

Set record size to *BLOCKS*x**512** bytes.

-B, --read-full-records

When listing or extracting, accept incomplete input records after end-of-file marker.

-i, --ignore-zeros

Ignore zeroed blocks in archive. Normally two consecutive 512-blocks filled with zeroes mean EOF and **tar** stops reading after encountering them. This option instructs it to read further and is useful when reading archives created with the **-A** option.

--record-size=*NUMBER*

Set record size. *NUMBER* is the number of bytes per record. It must be multiple of **512**. It can be suffixed with a **size suffix**, e.g. **--record-size=10K**, for 10 Kilobytes. See the subsection **Size suffixes**, for a list of valid suffixes.

Archive format selection**-H, --format=FORMAT**

Create archive of the given format. Valid formats are:

gnu GNU tar 1.13.x format

oldgnu

GNU format as per tar <= 1.12.

pax, posix

POSIX 1003.1-2001 (pax) format.

ustar

POSIX 1003.1-1988 (ustar) format.

v7 Old V7 tar format.

--old-archive, --portability

Same as **--format=v7**.

--pax-option=keyword[:=value][,keyword[:=value]]...

Control pax keywords when creating **PAX** archives (**-H pax**). This option is equivalent to the **-o** option of the **pax(1)** utility.

--posix

Same as **--format=posix**.

-V, --label=TEXT

Create archive with volume name *TEXT*. If listing or extracting, use *TEXT* as a globbing pattern for volume name.

Compression options**-a, --auto-compress**

Use archive suffix to determine the compression program.

-I, --use-compress-program=COMMAND

Filter data through *COMMAND*. It must accept the **-d** option, for decompression. The argument can contain command line options.

-j, --bzip2

Filter the archive through **bzip2**(1).

-J, --xz

Filter the archive through **xz**(1).

--lzip

Filter the archive through **lzip**(1).

--lzma

Filter the archive through **lzma**(1).

--lzop

Filter the archive through **lzop**(1).

--no-auto-compress

Do not use archive suffix to determine the compression program.

-z, --gzip, --gunzip, --ungzip

Filter the archive through **gzip**(1).

-Z, --compress, --uncompress

Filter the archive through **compress**(1).

--zstd

Filter the archive through **zstd**(1).

Local file selection

--add-file=FILE

Add *FILE* to the archive (useful if its name starts with a dash).

--backup[=CONTROL]

Backup before removal. The *CONTROL* argument, if supplied, controls the backup policy. Its valid values are:

none, off

Never make backups.

t, numbered

Make numbered backups.

nil, existing

Make numbered backups if numbered backups exist, simple backups otherwise.

never, simple

Always make simple backups

If *CONTROL* is not given, the value is taken from the **VERSION_CONTROL** environment variable. If it is not set, **existing** is assumed.

-C, --directory=DIR

Change to *DIR* before performing any operations. This option is order-sensitive, i.e. it affects all options that follow.

--exclude=PATTERN

Exclude files matching *PATTERN*, a **glob(3)**-style wildcard pattern.

--exclude-backups

Exclude backup and lock files.

--exclude-caches

Exclude contents of directories containing file **CACHEDIR.TAG**, except for the tag file itself.

--exclude-caches-all

Exclude directories containing file **CACHEDIR.TAG** and the file itself.

--exclude-caches-under

Exclude everything under directories containing **CACHEDIR.TAG**

--exclude-ignore=FILE

Before dumping a directory, see if it contains *FILE*. If so, read exclusion patterns from this file. The patterns affect only the directory itself.

--exclude-ignore-recursive=FILE

Same as **--exclude-ignore**, except that patterns from *FILE* affect both the directory and all its subdirectories.

--exclude-tag=FILE

Exclude contents of directories containing *FILE*, except for *FILE* itself.

--exclude-tag-all=FILE

Exclude directories containing *FILE*.

--exclude-tag-under=FILE

Exclude everything under directories containing *FILE*.

--exclude-vcs

Exclude version control system directories.

--exclude-vcs-ignores

Exclude files that match patterns read from VCS-specific ignore files. Supported files are: **.cvsignore**, **.gitignore**, **.bzrignore**, and **.hgignore**.

-h, --dereference

Follow symlinks; archive and dump the files they point to.

--hard-dereference

Follow hard links; archive and dump the files they refer to.

-K, --starting-file=MEMBER

Begin at the given member in the archive.

--newer-mtime=DATE

Work on files whose data changed after the *DATE*. If *DATE* starts with / or . it is taken to be a file name; the mtime of that file is used as the date.

--no-null

Disable the effect of the previous **--null** option.

--no-recursion

Avoid descending automatically in directories.

--no-unquote

Do not unquote input file or member names.

--no-verbatim-files-from

Treat each line read from a file list as if it were supplied in the command line. I.e., leading and trailing whitespace is removed and, if the resulting string begins with a dash, it is treated as **tar** command line option.

This is the default behavior. The **--no-verbatim-files-from** option is provided as a way to restore it

after **--verbatim-files-from** option.

This option is positional: it affects all **--files-from** options that occur after it in, until **--verbatim-files-from** option or end of line, whichever occurs first.

It is implied by the **--no-null** option.

--null

Instruct subsequent **-T** options to read null-terminated names verbatim (disables special handling of names that start with a dash).

See also **--verbatim-files-from**.

-N, --newer=DATE, --after-date=DATE

Only store files newer than *DATE*. If *DATE* starts with */* or *.* it is taken to be a file name; the mtime of that file is used as the date.

--one-file-system

Stay in local file system when creating archive.

-P, --absolute-names

Don't strip leading slashes from file names when creating archives.

--recursion

Recurse into directories (default).

--suffix=STRING

Backup before removal, override usual suffix. Default suffix is *~*, unless overridden by environment variable **SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX**.

-T, --files-from=FILE

Get names to extract or create from *FILE*.

Unless specified otherwise, the *FILE* must contain a list of names separated by ASCII **LF** (i.e. one name per line). The names read are handled the same way as command line arguments. They undergo quote removal and word splitting, and any string that starts with a **-** is handled as **tar** command line option.

If this behavior is undesirable, it can be turned off using the **--verbatim-files-from** option.

The **--null** option instructs **tar** that the names in *FILE* are separated by ASCII **NUL** character, instead of **LF**. It is useful if the list is generated by **find(1) -print0** predicate.

--unquote

Unquote file or member names (default).

--verbatim-files-from

Treat each line obtained from a file list as a file name, even if it starts with a dash. File lists are supplied with the **--files-from (-T)** option. The default behavior is to handle names supplied in file lists as if they were typed in the command line, i.e. any names starting with a dash are treated as **tar** options. The **--verbatim-files-from** option disables this behavior.

This option affects all **--files-from** options that occur after it in the command line. Its effect is reverted by the **--no-verbatim-files-from** option.

This option is implied by the **--null** option.

See also **--add-file**.

-X, --exclude-from=FILE

Exclude files matching patterns listed in *FILE*.

File name transformations**--strip-components=NUMBER**

Strip *NUMBER* leading components from file names on extraction.

--transform=EXPRESSION, --xform=EXPRESSION

Use sed replace *EXPRESSION* to transform file names.

File name matching options

These options affect both exclude and include patterns.

--anchored

Patterns match file name start.

--ignore-case

Ignore case.

--no-anchored

Patterns match after any / (default for exclusion).

--no-ignore-case

Case sensitive matching (default).

--no-wildcards

Verbatim string matching.

--no-wildcards-match-slash

Wildcards do not match /.

--wildcards

Use wildcards (default for exclusion).

--wildcards-match-slash

Wildcards match / (default for exclusion).

Informative output**--checkpoint[=*N*]**

Display progress messages every *N*th record (default 10).

--checkpoint-action=ACTION

Run *ACTION* on each checkpoint.

--clamp-mtime

Only set time when the file is more recent than what was given with **--mtime**.

--full-time

Print file time to its full resolution.

--index-file=FILE

Send verbose output to *FILE*.

-l, --check-links

Print a message if not all links are dumped.

--no-quote-chars=STRING

Disable quoting for characters from *STRING*.

--quote-chars=STRING

Additionally quote characters from *STRING*.

--quoting-style=STYLE

Set quoting style for file and member names. Valid values for *STYLE* are **literal**, **shell**, **shell-always**, **c**, **c-maybe**, **escape**, **locale**, **clocale**.

-R, --block-number

Show block number within archive with each message.

--show-omitted-dirs

When listing or extracting, list each directory that does not match search criteria.

--show-transformed-names, --show-stored-names

Show file or archive names after transformation by **--strip** and **--transform** options.

--totals[=SIGNAL]

Print total bytes after processing the archive. If *SIGNAL* is given, print total bytes when this signal is delivered. Allowed signals are: **SIGHUP**, **SIGQUIT**, **SIGINT**, **SIGUSR1**, and **SIGUSR2**. The **SIG** prefix can be omitted.

--utc

Print file modification times in UTC.

-v, --verbose

Verbosely list files processed. Each instance of this option on the command line increases the verbosity level by one. The maximum verbosity level is 3. For a detailed discussion of how various verbosity levels affect tar's output, please refer to **GNU Tar Manual**, subsection 2.5.2 "**The '--verbose' Option**".

--warning=KEYWORD

Enable or disable warning messages identified by *KEYWORD*. The messages are suppressed if *KEYWORD* is prefixed with **no-** and enabled otherwise.

Multiple **--warning** options accumulate.

Keywords controlling general **tar** operation:

all Enable all warning messages. This is the default.

none

Disable all warning messages.

filename-with-nuls

"%s: file name read contains nul character"

alone-zero-block

"A lone zero block at %s"

Keywords applicable for **tar --create**:

cachedir

"%s: contains a cache directory tag %s; %s"

file-shrank

"%s: File shrank by %s bytes; padding with zeros"

xdev

"%s: file is on a different filesystem; not dumped"

file-ignored

"%s: Unknown file type; file ignored"

"%s: socket ignored"

"%s: door ignored"

file-unchanged

"%s: file is unchanged; not dumped"

ignore-archive

"%s: archive cannot contain itself; not dumped"

file-removed

"%s: File removed before we read it"

file-changed

"%s: file changed as we read it"

failed-read

Suppresses warnings about unreadable files or directories. This keyword applies only if used together with the **--ignore-failed-read** option.

Keywords applicable for **tar --extract**:

existing-file

"%s: skipping existing file"

timestamp

"%s: implausibly old time stamp %s"

"%s: time stamp %s is %s s in the future"

contiguous-cast

"Extracting contiguous files as regular files"

symlink-cast

"Attempting extraction of symbolic links as hard links"

unknown-cast

"%s: Unknown file type '%c', extracted as normal file"

ignore-newer

"Current %s is newer or same age"

unknown-keyword

"Ignoring unknown extended header keyword '%s'"

decompress-program

Controls verbose description of failures occurring when trying to run alternative decompressor programs. This warning is disabled by default (unless **--verbose** is used). A common example of what you can get when using this warning is:

```
$ tar --warning=decompress-program -x -f archive.Z
tar (child): cannot run compress: No such file or directory
tar (child): trying gzip
```

This means that **tar** first tried to decompress **archive.Z** using **compress**, and, when that failed, switched to **gzip**.

record-size

"Record size = %lu blocks"

Keywords controlling incremental extraction:

rename-directory

"%s: Directory has been renamed from %s"

"%s: Directory has been renamed"

new-directory

"%s: Directory is new"

xdev

"%s: directory is on a different device: not purging"

bad-dumpdir

"Malformed dumpdir: 'X' never used"

-w, --interactive, --confirmation

Ask for confirmation for every action.

Compatibility options

-o When creating, same as **--old-archive**. When extracting, same as **--no-same-owner**.

Size suffixes

Suffix	Units	Byte Equivalent
b	Blocks	<i>SIZE</i> x 512
B	Kilobytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024
c	Bytes	<i>SIZE</i>
G	Gigabytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024 ³
K	Kilobytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024
k	Kilobytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024
M	Megabytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024 ²
P	Petabytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024 ⁵
T	Terabytes	<i>SIZE</i> x 1024 ⁴
w	Words	<i>SIZE</i> x 2

RETURN VALUE

Tar's exit code indicates whether it was able to successfully perform the requested operation, and if not, what kind of error occurred.

0 Successful termination.

1 *Some files differ.* If **tar** was invoked with the **--compare** (**--diff**, **-d**) command line option, this means that some files in the archive differ from their disk counterparts. If **tar** was given one of the **--create**, **--append** or **--update** options, this exit code means that some files were changed while

being archived and so the resulting archive does not contain the exact copy of the file set.

2 *Fatal error.* This means that some fatal, unrecoverable error occurred.

If a subprocess that had been invoked by **tar** exited with a nonzero exit code, **tar** itself exits with that code as well. This can happen, for example, if a compression option (e.g. **-z**) was used and the external compressor program failed. Another example is **rmt** failure during backup to a remote device.

SEE ALSO

bzip2(1), **compress**(1), **gzip**(1), **lzma**(1), **lzop**(1), **rmt**(8), **symlink**(7), **xz**(1), **zstd**(1).

Complete **tar** manual: run **info tar** or use **emacs**(1) info mode to read it.

Online copies of **GNU tar** documentation in various formats can be found at:

<https://www.gnu.org/software/tar/manual>

BUG REPORTS

Report bugs to <bug-tar@gnu.org>.

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